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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: )  
 )  
Trautman, et al. )  
 )  
FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD )  
FOR PIERCING SKIN WITH )  
MICROPROTRUSIONS )  
 )  
SERIAL NO: 09/976,798 )  
 )  
FILED: October 12, 2001 )  
 )  
ART UNIT NO: 3763 )  
 )  
EXAMINER: Thompson, Kathryn L. )  
 )  
DOCKET NO: ARC 3043 R1 )

AMENDMENT A

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are made in response to the Office communication, dated February 17, 2004. Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.